



J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

June 20, 2006

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – SONYA LOVE
GUIDANCE CENTER GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Sonya Love Guidance Center Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Sonya Love Guidance Center, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Sonya Love Guidance Center Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Sonya Love Guidance Center Group Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County Probation children.

Sonya Love Guidance Center Group Home is located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

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services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address the following deficient areas.

Sonya Love Guidance Center Group Home needs to landscape the backyard; remove the inoperable van and washing machine from the back yard; provide children with age appropriate recreational equipment; include the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans; and develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include long and short-term goals.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:ec

http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Dexter Love, Executive Director, Sonya Love Guidance Center Group Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Sonya Love Guidance Group Home
1700 W. 60th Street
Los Angeles, California 90060
Phone: (323) 293-4909
License Number: 198203880
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Sonya Love Guidance Center Group Home is located in a residential community. Overall, the exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front yard is clean. However, the back yard is not adequately landscaped, and there is overgrown shrubbery along the fence. There is also, an in-operable van and washing machine in the yard.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home provides board games, and a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available. However, the Group Home does not maintain a sufficient amount of age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment for the children's use.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Sonya Love Guidance Center Group Home management:

- a. Provide appropriate landscape in the backyard.**
- b. Remove the automobile and washing machine from the back yard.**

- c. Provide children with a sufficient amount of age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment, including exercise equipment.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Service Plans (NSPs) are current; however, the treatment team and input from the child are not included in the development and implementation of the NSPs. The NSPs are not comprehensive, and do not include long and short-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. Sonya Love Guidance Center Group Home management:

- a. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs .
- b. Develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include long and short- term goals.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational

programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

Sonya Love Guidance Center
1700 West 60th Street Los Angeles, California 90047
(310) 721-5204 Fax: (310) 534-1405

April 12, 2006

To: Candace Rhue, Group Home Audit Supervisor
Department of Auditor-Controller, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

From: LeVetta Hill, Administrator

Re: Correction Action Plan (CAP) for Sonya Love Guidance Center
License Number: 198203880

This Corrective Action Plan (CAP) is written in response to the audit conducted on:
February 14, 2006, at Sonya Love Guidance Center, 1700 West 60th Street, Los Angeles,
California 90047.

I. Facility and Environment

Recommendations:

1. Sonya Love Guidance Center Group Home management:
 - a. Provide appropriate landscape in the backyard.
 - b. Remove the automobile and washing machine from the backyard.
 - c. Provide children with a sufficient amount of age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment including exercise equipment.

The backyard in questioned is a co-inhabited area. The overgrown shrubbery along the fence, the inoperable van and the washing machine in the rear of the yard, did not belong to Sonya Love Guidance Center. It was the property of the neighbors adjacent to the facility, which is also located on the same lot as Sonya Love Guidance Center. (Please note: With the cooperation of the neighbors the shrubbery has been trimmed and the washing machine has been removed.) However, to ensure that the upkeep of the backyard is maintained, the shared area will be divided by the installation of a fence. In the future, this

will help in providing a clear division of property and liability . The anticipated installation date of the fence is on or before: April 30, 2006. In addition, the residents of Sonya Love Guidance Center have been provided with access to on-grounds, age appropriate recreational equipment (ie. Portable gym equipment).

Sonya Love Guidance Center's staff has been instructed and will continue to provide and maintain a home like setting throughout the facility on a daily basis. Weekly facility inspections are being conducted by the facility manager to monitor and ensure proper maintenance of the facility and its equipment.

II. Program Services

Recommendations:

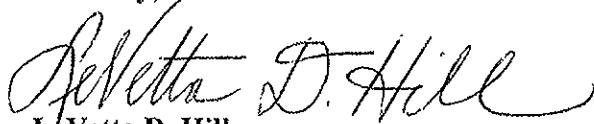
2. Sonya Love Guidance Center Group Home management:
 - a. Include the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.
 - b. Develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include long and short-term goals.

Sonya Love Guidance Center has formulated and implemented a revised Needs and Service Plan. The revised format is specific, attainable, realistic, time limited and has both long and short-term goals. The treatment team as well as each resident will participate in the development and implementation of the revised Needs and Services Plan.

Sonya Love Guidance Center's treatment team will provide and maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plan for each resident. A monthly administrative review has been implemented to ensure that the Needs and Service Plans are in keeping with the County's guidelines.

We, respectfully submit this Corrective Action Plan for your review. Should you have any additional questions, please contact me at (310) 721-5204.

Sincerely,


LeVetta D. Hill